

*Stated Meeting, Nov. 19th, 1869.*

Present, fourteen members.

MR. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter, dated Paris, Oct. 25th, 1869, was read from M. Carlier, informing the Society officially of the termination of his duties as agent for the Society in the matter of the Michaux Legacy.

Circular letters were read, dated Nov. 1, 1869, from Mr. Axel Erdmann, chief of the Geological Survey of Sweden, announcing the transmission of charts and pamphlet descriptions of the Survey, and requesting exchanges.

Donations for the Library were received from the Swedish Survey, the Geographical Society of Paris, the London Astronomical Society, the Boston Society of Natural History, Yale College, Dr. Newberry, the New Jersey Historical Society, the General Superintendent of Freedmen Schools at Washington, and Dr. J. W. Hoyt of Wisconsin.

A communication was read entitled "On Comets and Meteors, by Daniel Kirkwood, LL. D., Professor in Indiana University." (See page 215.)

A communication was read by Judge Lowrie, entitled a search for a "Normal Cause of the Recession of Cosmical Nodes." (See page 220.)

Dr. G. B. Wood exhibited a number of Indian relics, disinterred from a bed of sand in the neighborhood of his residence in Southern New Jersey, consisting of portions of the skull and leg bones of a man, who had been buried in a sitting posture,

with the face towards the East; and a finely wrought celt, or hatchet to be held in the hand, and a flaked spear-head, buried with the corpse. The bones were not fossilized; but their cancellated tissues were filled with fine sand, and their age appeared very considerable when a comparison was instituted with those of the skeleton of a white man, buried in the same neighborhood, about a century ago. There were also obtained, from that neighborhood, rubbed and furrowed hammer-heads, a large and well formed pestle, other implements apparently made out of Delaware pebbles, and a large quern, or mill-stone, of rock brought also from a distance. A ridge, composed chiefly of oyster-shells, near by, is popularly accounted for by supposing it to have been formed of the refuse of the food of the aborigines. Dr. H. C. Wood explained it as an out-crop of a shell-bed of Eocene Tertiary age. This is the more interesting, as the Tertiaries of New Jersey have been supposed to belong exclusively to the Miocene age.

Dr. H. C. Wood communicated to the Society some recent experiments which he had made with *Veratria*, after which he considered it proved, that purgation was connected especially with the action of the pneumo-gastric nerve-system.

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Members in Council were read.

Dr. Carson described the character of the Memoir upon the Physiological Qualities of American Hemp, and the reasons influencing the Board to recommend it, not for the Magellanic, but for an extra premium, in accordance with the action of the Society, of date Feb. 12, 1864; whereupon, on the motion of Mr. Fraley, it was

RESOLVED, That an appropriation of one hundred dollars be made from the income of the Magellanic Fund, for the payment of the said premium, and that said sum be transmitted to the author of the essay, with a suitable certificate engrossed on parchment, of the award of said premium, said certificate to be under the Seal of the Society, and to be attested by the signature of the officers thereof.

RESOLVED: That said essay be published in the proceedings. (P. 226.)

New nominations Nos. 643 to 648 were read.